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Casuarina equisetifolia L. ex J.R. & G. Forst.

Casuarinaceae Casuarina family

Casuarina, Australian pine

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February 1993

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John A. Parrotta

Casuarina equisetifolia L. ex J.R. & G. Forst., commonly known as casuarina, Australian pine, sheoak, and pino australiano, is a fast-growing, medium-sized evergreen tree that grows up to 45 m in height. This tree is distinguished by its rough, furrowed, light gray-brown bark and a thin crown of dark-green, drooping, photosynthetic twigs or branchlets (fig. 1). Native to coastal areas of tropical Australia and Southeast Asia (fig. 2), casuarina has been introduced and naturalized throughout the Caribbean and elsewhere in the Tropics and subtropics. It is a useful species for reforestation of coastal areas and degraded lands and is valued as a source of fuel, posts, and tannins. Two subspecies, *incana* and *equisetifolia,* are recognized. The former is a small tree native only to Australia; the latter is a much larger tree and is more widely distributed. All the information contained in this monograph pertains to the subspecies *equisetifolia.*

HABITAT

Native and Introduced Ranges

Casuarina is native to the Andaman Islands (India) and seacoasts from southern Bangladesh, Myanmar (formerly Burma), Thailand, and Malaysia to subtropical Australia, Melanesia, Micronesia, the Philippines, and Polynesia between latitudes 22° N. and 32° S. *(5)* (fig. 2). It has been introduced and became naturalized in southern India, Hawaii, southern Florida, the Caribbean, coastal regions of Mexico and Central America, and South America *(57, 112).* In the Caribbean, casuarina was introduced to Cuba by the early 19th century *(8).*

Extensive plantations have been established in China, Thailand, India, Kenya, Portugal, and the island of Corsica and also in the Middle East, north Africa, west Africa, and south Africa *(76).* In Puerto Rico, hundreds of thousands of casuarina have been planted since 1924 on Commonwealth and National Forest lands, along coasts and roadsides, and on private lands *(67, 68).*[1]

Climate

Casuarina grows best in humid tropical and subtropical climatic zones. Within its native range annual rainfall ranges from 700 to 5000 mm, and often there is a dry season of 6 to 8 months. In Australia, casuarina occurs primarily in the hot humid zone, with some extension into the hot and warm subhumid climatic zones. Frosts are absent in all of the coastal strand, although in the extreme southern portion of its range there may be one to three frosts per year within a few kilometers of the sea. Annual rainfall through most of casuarina's Australian range is between 1000 and 1500 mm, with seasonal distribution varying from a strong summer maximum in the south to a strong monsoonal pat-

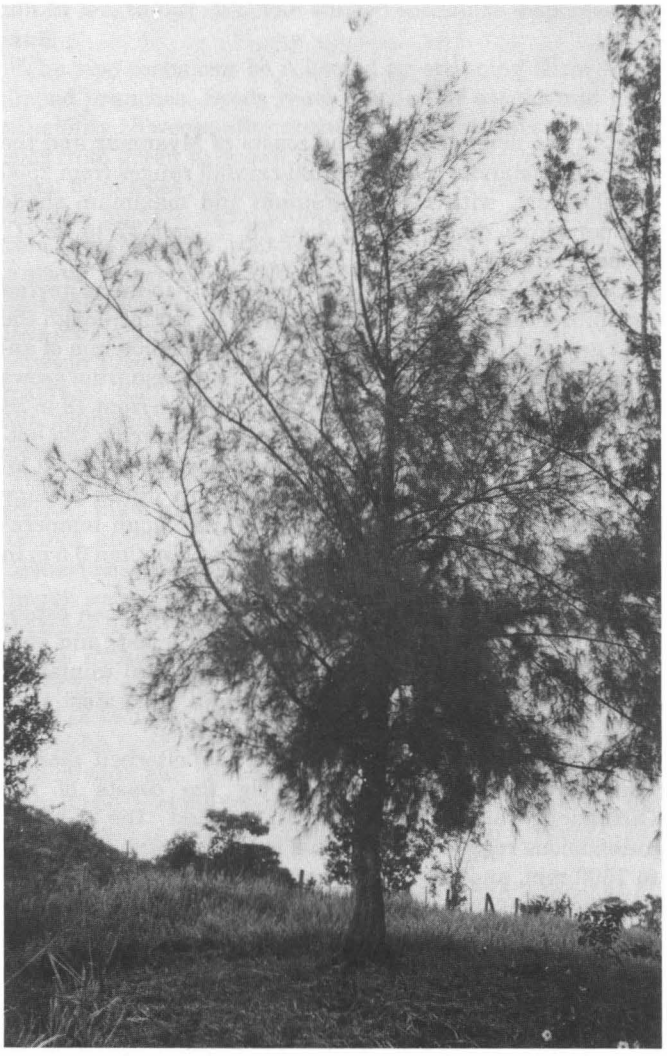

Figure 1. — *Casuarina* (Casuarina equisetifolia) *in Puerto Rico.*

[1]Unpublished data on file at: International Institute of Tropical Forestry, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station, Río Piedras, PR 00928-2500.

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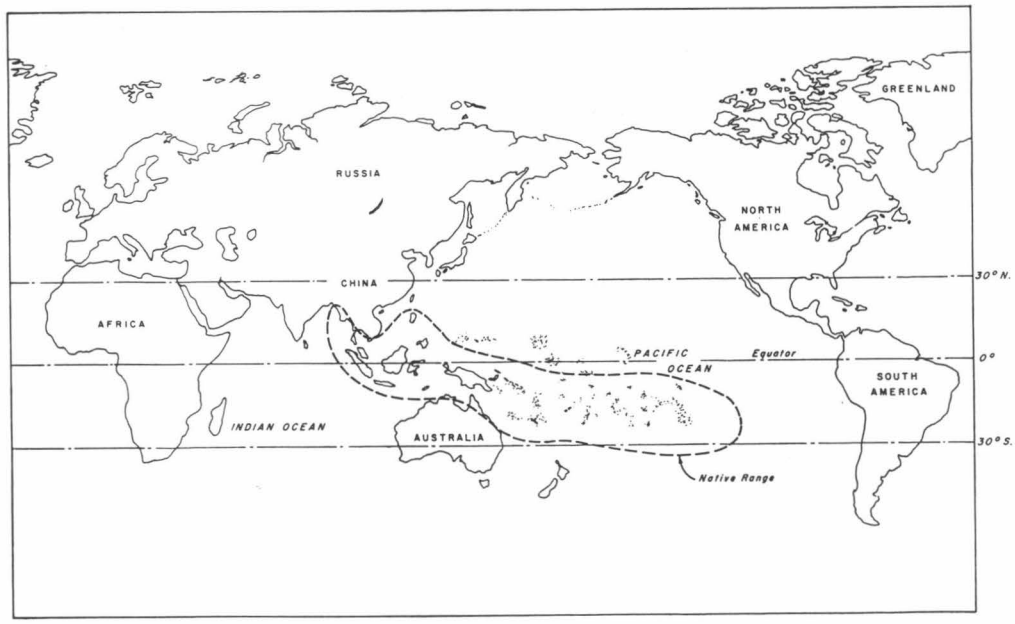

Figure 2. — *Native range of casuarina* (Casuarina equisetifolia).

tern in the north *(25)*. On the coasts of Myanmar and the Andaman Islands (India), annual rainfall ranges from 2500 to 5000 mm, with mean minimum and maximum shade temperatures ranging from 7 to 16 °C and 37 to 38 °C, respectively *(100)*.

Casuarina has been planted successfully in areas having an annual rainfall of 200 to 6000 mm *(76, 84)*, although the best growth occurs on sites receiving 700 to 2500 mm of annual rainfall *(107)*. In its introduced range, casuarina grows well where mean annual temperatures range from 18 to 28 °C, with mean temperatures of 20 to 35 °C during the hottest month and 10 to 20 °C during the coldest month *(13, 107)*. Light frosts are reported to cause only minor damage to well-established trees *(71, 88, 100)*, although temperatures of approximately –8 °C can kill trees less than 0.5 m in height *(88)*.

In Puerto Rico, casuarina plantations have been established in the subtropical dry, subtropical moist, and subtropical wet forest life zones *(30)*. Mean annual rainfall in these areas ranges from 600 to 4000 mm, with most sites receiving between 1250 and 2000 mm *(31)*.

In southern China, where extensive shelterbelt plantations have been established along the coasts of the Guangdong and Fujian provinces and the Guanxi autonomous region, mean annual rainfall ranges from 1400 to 1600 mm, and there is a 6-month dry season. Mean annual temperature in this region is 24 °C, with an absolute maximum of 37 °C *(101)*.

In southern India, casuarina grows well in areas having a well-distributed rainfall ranging from 850 to 3800 mm/yr *(100)*. In coastal areas, the mean minimum and maximum temperatures range from 7.5 to 17.5 °C and 37.5 to 47.5 °C, respectively. In inland areas casuarina is grown under conditions of greater temperature extremes *(100, 112)*.

Soils and Topography

In its native range, casuarina occurs in coastal regions on dunes, sandy flats, and gently sloping topography up to 100 m in elevation. Soils are typically sands overlying sandy loams *(25)*. In Micronesia, casuarina occurs naturally along coasts and in upland savannas on both limestone and volcanic soils *(76)*. Where introduced, casuarina grows from near sea level to altitudes of 1,750 m *(13)*.

Casuarina grows best on porous, well-drained soils with adequate moisture and nutrient supplies, such as river alluvium or sandy loam. Good growth occurs on nutrient-poor sands as well as on calcareous and moderately saline soils *(4, 17, 27, 66, 74, 111)*, although growth rates decline under conditions of excessive salinity and sodium saturation *(54, 113)*. Casuarina grows well in soils having a wide range of pH, from 5.0 to 9.5 *(13, 76, 113)*. This tree has been successfully grown on difficult sites such as dune sands *(64)*, limestone and tin-mine spoils *(29, 96)*, and sterile pumice *(76)*. Phosphorus deficiencies, evidenced by purplish discoloration of branchlets, inhibit nitrogen fixation by *Frankia* symbionts and may limit productivity of casuarina on some sites *(2)*. Potassium deficiencies are believed to contribute to widespread mortality in some Indian plantations *(77)*.

In Puerto Rico, casuarina has been planted along coasts, on coastal plains, and in foothills up to about 500 m in elevation. Good growth occurs on well-drained coastal sands, sandy loams, silty clay loams, and clays within the soil orders Entisols, Inceptisols, Mollisols, Oxisols, and Vertisols *(35, 61, 67, 68)*.[1] Plantation failures are common on Ultisols on cool, wet sites above 500 m in elevation.[1] Growth is generally better on the coastal plains and in large river valleys than on sites at higher elevations *(67)*. On upland sites, better growth has been reported in valleys on slopes.[1]

The depth below the surface on the soil and fluctuation of the water table greatly influence the growth of casuarina. On favorable sites such as coastal beaches or dunes, the water table is usually located at depths of 1.5 to 4 m below the soil surface, and there is little seasonal fluctuation *(113)*. Prolonged drought causing significant lowering of the water table to depths below 4 or 5 m, the presence of root-impermeable horizons above the water table, and extended periods of waterlogging are all deleterious to growth of casuarina *(104, 112)*.

Associated Forest Cover

In the coastal strand where casuarina mainly grows in its native range, the species typically forms pure stands in association with a ground cover of grasses and herbs *(25, 40, 100)*. In Myanmar, casuarina grows in nearly pure stands along the coast with scattered individuals of *Pongamia glabra* Vent., *Calophyllum inophyllum* L., *Eugenia* spp., *Erythrina indica* Lam., *Thespesia populnea* (L.) Soland ex Correa, and *Hibiscus tiliaceus* L. as understory associates *(14)*. In Malaysia, it forms pure stands, sometimes with herbaceous understory associates *(12, 109)*. In Australia, casuarina also grows in narrow belts adjacent to mangrove forests or is scattered in open woodlands in association with *Eucalyptus* species *(25)*. In south Florida, casuarina usually forms pure stands *(20)*, although it sometimes grows in association with *Piscidia carthagenensis* Jacq., *Conocarpus erectus* L., *Rapanea guianensis* Aubl., *Eugenia* spp., *Randia* spp., *Chrysobalanus icaco* L., *Myrica cerifera* L., *Persea littoralis* Small, and *Metropium toxiferum* (L.) Krug & Urban *(19)*.

In dense stands, understory vegetation is usually very sparse because of a combination of the production of a thick, slowly decomposed litter layer and the high, potentially toxic concentrations of selenium and salts (on coastal sites) that often characterize the litter of casuarina *(76)*. Abundant natural regeneration of *Cordia alliodora* (R. & P.) Oken, *Inga vera* Willd., *Petitia dominguensis* Jacq., *Swietenia mahoganii* (L.) Jacq., and *S. macrophylla* G. King was observed in 4-year-old plantations at St. Just in Puerto Rico.[1] In Lajas, Puerto Rico, natural regeneration of *Chrysophyllum cainito* L., *Cupania americana* L., *Roystonea borinquena* O.F. Cook, *Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth., and *Leucaena leucocephala* (Lam.) de Wit has been observed in 12-year-old plantations (author, personal observation). In more open stands on coastal sites in Puerto Rico, understory associates include *Bucida buceras* L., *Tabebuia heterophylla* (DC.) Britton, *Andira inermis* (W. Wright) DC., and *Calophyllum brasiliense* Jacq.[1] In young casuarina plantations in India, natural regeneration of *Azadirachta indica* (L.) Juss. and *Santalum album* L. has been reported *(9)*.

LIFE HISTORY

Reproduction and Early Growth

Flowering and Fruiting.—Flowering in casuarina usually begins at 2 to 5 years of age. In Puerto Rico, flowering and fruiting are irregular and occur throughout the year *(58)*. In regions with more pronounced wet and dry seasons, flowering and fruiting are more regular and occur once or twice a year *(100, 102)*. Casuarina is usually monoecious, with male and female flowers separate but borne on the same plant *(57, 98)*, although in some regions, such as India, the species is predominantly dioecious *(50)*. Male flower clusters (spikes or catkins), which grow at the end of branchlets, are narrowly cylindrical, 1 to 2 cm long, and less than 3 mm wide. The tiny male flowers are crowded in rings among grayish scales, each flower consisting of one exposed brown stamen less than 3 mm long and two tiny brown sepal scales at the base. Female flower clusters are short-stalked globular or ovoid spikes less than 3 mm in diameter. Individual female flowers consist of a pistil 5 mm long, including an ovary, a very short style, and two long, thread-like, dark-red stigmas *(57)*. Casuarina is wind-pollinated.

The multiple fruit is a hard, woody, conelike ball 13 to 20 mm in diameter that is often longer than it is wide. Each of these "cones" consists of 70 to 90 pointed fruits; each fruit is 3 mm long and 3 mm wide *(57)*. When fully ripe, the cones range in color from gray green to reddish brown *(50)*.

Seed Production and Dissemination.—Upon maturity, the two bracteoles that form the individual fruits separate, which releases a single light-brown seed about 6 mm in length *(50, 57)*. The winged seeds are dispersed by wind.

The ripe cones can be collected by stripping them from clipped branches. Seeds reach maximum weight and germinability 18 weeks after anthesis, or when cones change in color from green to brown *(82)*. An evaluation of cones collected from trees ranging in age from 2 to 7 years indicated that the highest germination and seedling vigor resulted from seeds collected from 5-year-old trees *(82)*. Cones placed in trays, covered by a thin cloth, and dried under full sunlight will soon begin to release their seeds, usually within 3 days *(50)*. A kilogram of green cones (about 250 cones) yields between 20 and 60 g of seeds. There are 650 to 760 seeds per gram *(50, 102)*. The application of an insect repellant effective against ant predation is advisable during the drying process *(50)*.

Seedling Development.—Germination, which is epigenous, takes place 4 to 22 days after sowing and is optimized at 30 °C under well-lighted conditions *(8, 39)*. Casuarina seeds are usually sown without pretreatment, although soaking seeds for 36 hours in a 1.5-percent solution of potassium nitrate reportedly enhances germination *(82)*. In the nursery, seeds are generally germinated in trays under full sunlight at an optimal density of 1,000 to 7,500 seeds (2 to 10 g) per square meter *(13, 83)*. Nursery soils should be light textured, optimally sandy loams or a mixture of sand and peat moss *(42)*. Germination ranges from 40 to 90 percent for fresh seeds and from 5 to 25 percent for seeds stored in airtight containers at 4 °C for 1 year *(8, 13, 24, 50, 107)*.

Seeds do not retain viability for more than 3 months at ambient temperatures *(50, 100)*. Seeds stored at subfreezing (–7 °C) or close to freezing (3 °C) temperatures, with moisture contents of the seeds ranging from 6 to 16 percent, retain viability for up to 2 years *(102)*. In the Philippines, germination of seeds collected from different trees within a single plantation was highly variable, ranging from 33 to 75 percent for fresh seeds *(41)*. A significant positive relation-

ship between cone size and seed germination was also noted in this study.

Seedlings are transferred from germination trays to containers when they reach a height of 10 to 15 cm, usually within 6 to 10 weeks after germination. Seedling containers measuring approximately 15 cm in diameter and 20 cm in depth are recommended *(83)*. Seedlings may also be transplanted to new beds at densities of 100 to 400 seedlings per square meter to obtain bare-rooted planting stock *(24, 87)*. In tests conducted in Puerto Rico, bare-rooted stock planted in rows 15 cm apart with a distance of 2.5 cm between seedlings within rows yielded seedlings with thicker and more fibrous root systems than seedlings produced from seeds.[1] Seedlings should be kept under partial shade until shortly before outplanting. Seedlings reach plantable size (20 to 50 cm in height) in 4 to 8 months.

It is recommended that seedlings be inoculated in the nursery using pure cultures of effective *Frankia* strains or using an inoculum from a nodule suspension prepared from fresh, healthy nodules collected in the field. Inoculation can be made by dipping roots into the suspension or by direct application of the suspension to the soil *(98)*. Alternatively, crushed, fresh nodules, leaf litter, or soils from the vicinity of effectively inoculated trees may be incorporated directly into the nursery potting mix *(99)*.

Natural regeneration of casuarina from seeds is poor in closed stands, but seedlings are readily established in open, disturbed sites *(98)*. Although casuarina's rapid natural regeneration is advantageous for revegetation of sand dunes, mining sites, and other derelict lands, it has been a problem in some areas, such as southern Florida, where it has colonized disturbed native vegetation formations *(18, 75)* and interfered with the nesting of sea turtles on foreshore dunes *(34)*.

Plantations may be established using containerized seedlings, bare-rooted plants, transplants, or rooted cuttings. Seedlings are very sensitive to both drought and excessive moisture *(100)*.

Vegetative Reproduction.—Casuarina has a strong tendency to spread horizontally through rooting of branches when trees are damaged or deformed by high winds, as commonly occurs on sand dunes *(50)*. Casuarina coppices only to a limited extent and usually only in trees up to 4 years of age *(116)*, although good coppice production has been reported in older plantations *(76, 100)*. Root suckering is commonly observed when stems are damaged, particularly in coastal plantations *(76, 100)*. Casuarina is easily propagated by rooting of stem cuttings *(62)*, lateral or side shoots, terminal branchlets, heel cuttings, or basal sprouts *(93, 98, 119)*. Tissue culture plantlets have been produced using explants from the epicotyl and root of seedlings and explants from immature female inflorescence *(26)*.

Sapling and Pole Stage to Maturity

Growth and Yield.—Casuarina is a fast-growing, though short-lived, tree that rarely survives beyond 50 years. Mature trees usually attain maximum heights of 25 to 40 m, with diameters at breast height (d.b.h.'s) of 40 to 50 cm. On favorable sites, growth is rapid during the first 5 to 8 years. Data on tree growth for plantations established in Puerto Rico are presented in table 1. The largest individual

Table 1.– *Mean d.b.h., height, and basal area of casuarina* (Casuarina equisetifolia) *plantations in Puerto Rico*

Location	Age	D.b.h.	Height	Basal area	Reference
	Years	*cm*	*m*	m^2/ha	
Aguirre	28	33.5	15–17	....	*
Añasco	13	15–20	18–24	....	*
El Verde	3	6.1	11.0	....	*
	14	13–33	11–18	....	*
	18	25.4	....	....	*
	20	29.0	....	....	*
	23	31.5	....	....	*
El Verde	8	12.4	16.7	....	*
	17	15.2	18.3	....	*
Guanica	21	15.2	13.7	....	*
Guanica	21	25.4	18.3	....	*
Lajas	1	4.4	3.7	....	*(61)*
	2	10.8	9.0	....	*(61)*
	5.5	11.0	16.7	....	*(61)*
Luquillo	10	20.3	17.4	....	*
	18	37.3	....	....	*
Luquillo	10	24.1	25.9	....	*
	17	36.6	....	....	*
	20	41.1	....	....	*
Maricao	20	10.2	9.1	....	*
Mona Island	12	10–25	21.5–24.6	....	*(68)*
Río Abajo	4	7.6	9.2	....	*(68)*
Río Abajo	5	6.4	5.5	....	*
Río Abajo	6	7.6	9.1	....	*
	8	8–13	12.2	....	*
	11	10.2	....	....	*
Río Abajo	7	10.4	....	12.2	*
	10	12.2	....	14.0	*
Sabana	8	12.7	12.3–16.9	16.3	*(67)*
	11	15.5	....	21.6	*
	16	17.0	....	23.0	*
St. Just	5	7.6	10.6	....	*
	10	10.4	13.7	....	*
St. Just	10	10–18	15.2	....	*
Toa Baja	1	2.9	4.1	7.9	†
	2	3.1	6.8	14.2	†

*Data on file at the International Institute of Tropical Forestry, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Río Piedras, PR 00928-2500.
†Measurements made by the author.

casuarina measured in Puerto Rico was 45.9 m tall and had a d.b.h. of 61 cm.[1]

In plantations less than 5 years old in Puerto Rico, mean annual height and d.b.h. increments range from 1.1 to 4.5 m (mean=3.3 m) and 1.3 to 5.4 cm (mean=2.7 cm), respectively. In 5.5- to 15-year-old plantations, mean annual height and d.b.h. increments range from 1.4 to 3.0 (mean=1.9 m) and 1.0 to 2.0 cm (mean=1.5 cm), respectively. In 16- to 28-year-old plantations, mean annual height and d.b.h. increments range from 0.5 to 1.1 m (mean=0.9 m) and 0.5 to 2.2 cm (mean=1.4 cm), respectively *(61, 68;* author, unpublished data).[1] Growth rates reported from Cuba *(8),* India *(85, 100),* Sri Lanka *(104),* Thailand *(114),* and the Philippines *(41)* are typically within the ranges given above, but are generally lower than the mean growth rates in Puerto Rico.

In adaptability trials conducted at 23 sites in subtropical and tropical very dry, dry, moist, and wet forest life zones (sensu Holdridge, *45)* in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, growth rates of casuarina trees varied greatly but were not clearly related to climatic factors *(13).* Most of these trials were on small-scale plantation plots that were established at densities ranging from 500 to 4,444 trees per hectare on sites located at elevations of 40 to 1,750 m. Mean annual temperatures for all sites ranged from 18.2 to 27.9 °C, annual precipitation ranged from 889 to 3140 mm, and length of the dry season ranged from 4 to 8 months. In plantations 1 to 5 years old, mean annual height and d.b.h. increments ranged from 0.4 to 2.1 m (mean=1.1 m) and 0.6 to 2.0 cm (mean=1.2 cm), respectively. In 5- to 10-year-old plantations, mean annual height and d.b.h. increments ranged from 0.9 to 1.8 m (mean=1.3 m) and 0.7 to 2.0 cm (mean=1.2 cm), respectively.

Three naturally regenerated casuarina stands surveyed on the north coast of Puerto Rico had total basal areas of 22.1, 31.7, and 39.5 m^2/ha.[1] Two of the stands, which were about 40 years old, were pure casuarina stands with densities of 4,966 and 7,003 trees per hectare, mean d.b.h.'s of 16.5 ± 1.2 and 11.7 ± 0.6 cm, and mean tree heights of 17.7 ± 1.1 and 14.9 ± 0.7 m, respectively. In the remaining stand, of unknown age, casuarina composed 92.8 percent and *Bucida buceras* L. comprised 6.4 percent of the total basal area; casuarina occurred at a density of 1,783 trees per hectare, with a mean d.b.h. and mean height of 29.8 ± 3.5 cm and 24.0 ± 3.1 m, respectively.

Average annual volume growth of casuarina trees on coastal sites in India ranged from 2.8 to 6.4 m^3/ha in 5- to 10-year-old plantations, 3.5 to 6.1 m^3/ha in 11- to 20-year-old plantations, and 5.6 to 6.3 m^3/ha in 21- to 40-year-old plantations *(92, 100).* Associated annual biomass (stemwood) yields from these plantations ranged from 2.6 to 10.3 t/ha. Elsewhere, maximum annual volume yields of 7 to 10 m^3/ha have been reported in 15- to 20-year-old plantations *(24).* Mean annual biomass yields of 9.5 and 36.2 t/ha have been reported in an 8-year-old plantation in Colombia *(52)* and a 5.5-year-old plantation in Puerto Rico, respectively *(61).* Volume tables *(11, 13, 85)* and biomass regressions *(13, 116)* have been published.

Rooting Habit.—Casuarina seedlings develop a long, thin, wiry taproot and numerous fibrous lateral roots *(100).* Mature trees typically have deep taproots and an extensive, shallow, lateral root system. Very deep taproot development and sparse lateral root development are typical of trees on sites with a deep or seasonally fluctuating water table, and poor taproot development is characteristic of trees on sites with shallow soils or a high water table *(112).* On periodically flooded sites, casuarina has been noted to root from the lower portion of the stem and from lower branches *(50).* Proteoid roots composed of tightly packed rows of rootlets have also been observed *(22; 24;* author, personal observation). The formation of these rootlet clusters, which are particularly efficient in phosphorus absorption, is believed to be induced by soil microorganisms *(65),* although recent studies have shown that their formation can be induced in axenic cultures by limiting phosphorus concentrations.[2]

Root biomass comprised 21 to 24 percent of total tree biomass in 1.5-year-old plantations in Puerto Rico (author, unpublished data). Fine roots (less than 2 mm in diameter) averaged 195 ± 21 g/m^2 in 9-month-old plantations *(81)* and 383 ± 60 g/m^2 in 2-year-old plantations in Puerto Rico (author, unpublished data). Approximately 33 and 50 percent of the total fine-root dry mass in the 9-month-old and 2-year-old stands, respectively, occurred within the upper 10 cm of the soil profile.

Fine roots readily form symbiotic associations with both ectomycorrhizal and endomycorrhizal fungi that facilitate uptake of soil nutrients, especially phosphate, and under some circumstances may facilitate water uptake and increase moisture availability *(22, 98).* A study conducted in southern Florida revealed that casuarina roots in both wet and dry sites were infected with both endotrophic and ectotrophic mycorrhizae, although ectotrophic mycorrhizae were less frequent in the wet sites *(98).* Root nodules produced by the nitrogen-fixing actinomycete *Frankia* enable casuarina trees to grow well in nitrogen-deficient soils *(32, 70). Frankia* infects the root hairs, which results in the formation of the perennial woody nodules *(1, 98).* Water stress has been found to limit both nodule formation and nitrogen fixation rates in *Frankia (48).* Double inoculation with both *Frankia* and another endophyte, *Glomus mosseae,* was found to greatly increase nodulation, nitrogen uptake and plant growth in casuarina seedlings *(33).* Estimates of annual symbiotic nitrogen fixation in casuarina stands range from 58 to 150 kg/ha *(23; 24;* author, unpublished data).

Reaction to Competition.—Casuarina is shade intolerant; in dense plantations, smaller seedlings are quickly suppressed by more vigorous individuals. Seedlings generally compete well with grasses and herbaceous weeds, except under drought conditions. In the Philippines, casuarina is recognized as one of the best species for planting on sites dominated by *Imperata cylindrica* Beauv. *(41, 72, 73).*

Plantations established primarily for fuel and pole production are typically planted at densities ranging from 1,600 to 10,000 trees per hectare and managed on rotations of 3 to 15 years, with thinnings after 4 to 5 years *(13, 50, 51, 104).* On seasonally dry sites in India, however, mortality,

[2]Baker, D.D. 1992. Personal communication with author. On file at: Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, New Haven, CT.

poor growth, and increased susceptibility to pests and diseases are common in plantations established at densities greater than 2,500 trees per hectare *(50, 100)*.

A spacing study conducted at a coastal site in Orissa, India, compared growth and yield in plantations established at tree spacings of 1.83 by 1.83, 2.74 by 2.74, and 3.66 by 3.66 m *(91, 92)*. The results showed that maximum mean annual volume increments were attained within the first 7 years with the two closest spacing treatments. Total volume production was significantly greater at these spacings for up to 19 years, and thinning after 7 years did not influence subsequent growth. These results suggest that plantations managed for both small- and large-diameter poles can be established at close spacings (1.83 by 1.83 m), thinned at 7 years of age, and harvested at 15 years of age for optimal production. In 2-year-old plantations in Thailand, the mean stem diameter (d.b.h.) decreased from 5.5 to 3.1 cm as stand densities increased from 3,333 to 20,000 trees per hectare *(115)*.

Casuarina is sometimes cultivated in mixed-species plantations and in agroforestry systems *(55)*. In India, first-year plantations are commonly underplanted with peanuts, sesame, pulses, cucumbers, or melons, depending on the prevailing climatic conditions and types of soils at each site. Tree species sometimes interplanted with casuarina in India include *Anacardium occidentale* L., *Azadirachta indica, Cocos nucifera* L., *Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb., *Pithecellobium dulce* (Roxb.) Benth., *Pongamia glabra, Sapindus laurifolius* Vahl, and *Syzygium jambos* (L.) Alst. *(100)*. Mixed plantations established at a strip-mined limestone quarry in Kenya with casuarina, *Conocarpus lancifolius,* and *A. indica* have produced good yields *(76)*. In Puerto Rico, plantations have been established with casuarina, *Leucaena leucocephala,* and *Eucalyptus robusta* Sm. (author, unpublished data). After 2 years, growth of casuarina and the associated species in the mixed stands was significantly greater than growth of trees in monocultural plantations.

Damaging Agents.—In the nursery, seed predation by ants is a major problem that can be controlled by application of carbolic acid solution or other appropriate formicidal agents to germination beds. Seedlings are also susceptible to damping-off disease caused by soil fungi of *Rhizoctonia* spp. *(41, 49)* and to browsing by rodents, crabs, crickets, and grasshoppers *(50, 76, 100)*. Because casuarina foliage is less palatable than that of most trees, it is not usually browsed by livestock *(50)*.

In Puerto Rico, casuarina is the host of numerous species of insects of the orders Coleoptera, Homoptera, Isoptera, Lepidoptera, and Orthoptera *(69)*, although few of these insects, if any, cause serious damage in plantations or naturalized stands. Several insect pests known to cause damage in casuarina plantations in Cuba include the stem and twig borer *Apate monachus* (F.), the leaf cutting ant *Atta insularis* (Guér.), the Australian pine spittlebug *Clastoptera undulata* Uhler., *Crypticerya rosae* (R. & H.), *Eocader bouclei* (Brun.), the cottony cushion scale *Icerya purchasi* Mask., and the wood borer *Neoclytus cordifer* Klug. *(8)*. In southern Florida, the twig girdler *Oncideres cingulata,* the thorn bug *Umbonia crassicornis,* the Australian pine spittlebug *C. undultata,* and the leaf notcher weevil *Artipus floridanus* are reported to cause minor damage to casuarina *(16)*. Bark and wood boring insects known to cause serious damage to casuarina include *Arbela tetraonis, Coelosterna scabrata,* and *Phassus malabaricus* in India *(50, 100)* and *Macrotoma palmata* F. in Egypt *(43)*. Termite infestations have been reported in coastal plantations in Senegal *(90)*. Defoliation by larvae of the coleopteran *Lixus camerunus* Kolbe has been reported in Nigeria *(28)*. Severe defoliation by the cotton locust *Chondracis rosea rosea* has been reported in southern China *(95)*. Attack by the root knot nematode *(Meloidogynes* sp.) has been reported in Florida *(103)*.

Casuarina is susceptible to a number of fungal pathogens within its native and introduced ranges. Mature trees are susceptible to root rot caused by *Armillaria mellea* Vahl ex Fr. in California and *Clitocybe tabescens* (Scop. ex Fr.) Bres. in Florida *(103)*. Heart rot caused by *Fomes applanatus* (Pers. ex Wallr.) Gill. and *Phellinus kawakamii* has been reported in Hawaii *(53, 103)*. In the Caribbean region, *Diplodia natalensis* Pole Evans had been reported to cause stem-end rot, dieback, twig blight, trunk rot, and stem canker in Puerto Rico *(59)*. An unidentified virus causing mottling and stunting of foliage, brooming, and multiple budding has been reported in Mexico and Central America *(97)*. Elsewhere in the world, major pathogens of casuarina include the fungi *Ganoderma lucidum* (in Taiwan), *Sclerotium rolfsii,* and *Phytophthora cambivora* that cause root rot and the bacterium *Pseudomonas solanacearum* that causes wilt *(44, 56, 120)*.

In India, large-scale mortality in casuarina plantations has been attributed to attack by the fungal pathogens *Trichosporium vesiculosum,* a wound parasite, and *Ganoderma lucidum (3, 6, 50). Phomopsis causuarinae,* a fungus that is normally symbiotic with casuarina, may become parasitic under certain conditions and has been identified as a cause of tree death in southern India *(112)*.

Casuarina is highly resistant to wind damage *(7, 101)*. Although young trees can withstand hurricane-force winds with little or no damage *(80),* serious damage has occurred in older plantations in Puerto Rico.[1] Casuarina is highly susceptible to fire damage *(76, 100)*. In some regions, such as India and China, litter is routinely removed from plantations for use as fuel and to reduce the risk of fire *(100, 101)*.

SPECIAL USES

Casuarina wood is very hard and heavy (specific gravity of 0.80 to 1.20 g/cm^3 for air-dried wood and 0.61 g/cm^3 for wood with a moisture content of 46 percent *[117])* and is exceptionally strong and tough *(25, 60)*. The heartwood is a dull reddish brown, occasionally with dark-brown streaks, and is not easily separated from the pinkish sapwood. The wood has a very fine texture, medium luster, and tightly interlocked grain. The wood dries at a moderate rate and degrades considerably during the process. Seasoning is accompanied by heavy and relatively uneven shrinkage. Casuarina logs are very difficult to saw in small circular sawmills, and because of its density and hardness, air-dried casuarina lumber is also difficult to machine, although machined surfaces are usually of good quality *(60)*. Casuarina is rated as a good wood for boring and mortising, and it sands to a very smooth finish. For a wood of such high density, casuarina's tightly interlocked grain gives it good resis-

tance to splitting by screws *(60)*. The wood is very susceptible to attack by the dry-wood termite *Cryptotermes brevis* (Walker) and has only limited durability unless treated with preservatives *(25, 60, 108)*. Untreated fenceposts have a useful life of 2 years, and larger poles remain durable for up to 5 years without treatment.[1]

The wood and cones of casuarina make excellent fuels (particularly charcoal), produce little ash, and burn satisfactorily even when green *(57)*. Air-dried wood has a calorific value of 4.1 to 4.9 kcal/g *(89, 107)*. Although casuarina wood is difficult to use for fine carpentry, it is widely used for making utility poles and house posts, rafters, beams, wagon wheels, tool handles, shingles, and small items such as oars *(25)*. It is a suitable raw material for chemical and semichemical pulps and for paper production *(37, 38, 63, 118)*.

Casuarina is widely planted for windbreaks and erosion control, such as along sandy coasts, sand dunes, and riverbanks *(10, 15, 27, 47, 64, 86)*. It is also grown as an ornamental and as a street (shade) tree, especially along coasts, and is sometimes pruned into hedges *(57)*. Casuarina trees have been cultivated in India since the 1860's in large plantations for fuelwood and posts. Approximately 1 million ha of casuarina plantations have been established in China since 1954 in about 3,000 km of shelterbelt plantings ranging form 0.5 to 5 km in width *(101)*. It is a valuable species for rehabilitation of degraded or naturally infertile soils due to its nitrogen-fixing capabilities and high rates of litter production *(36)*, which facilitate the early successional development of microflora, microfauna, and insect communities and increase nutrient availability. In India, where casuarina trees are used for this purpose, the combined accumulation of forest floor biomass and soil organic matter beneath a 12-year-old plantation established on coastal sands was estimated to be 70.8 t/ha, with litter and humus additions comprising 39 percent of the total *(50)*. In Puerto Rico, total stocks of standing litter amounted to 16.2 t/ha in 5.5-year-old plantation stands *(61)*. When compared with other plantation species *(Leucaena leucocephala, Albizia procera,* and *Eucalyptus robusta)*, casuarina was found to have the highest nutrient-use efficiency, producing the greatest quantity of total aboveground biomass per unit of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and magnesium utilized *(105)*.

The bark of casuarina trees is rich in tannin (6 to 8 percent) and is used in some locales for dyeing fishing nets and leather *(12, 13, 21)*. The bark and branchlets are claimed to have medicinal properties and are used by native New Zealanders in the treatment of beriberi *(13)*. Chemical analysis of the fruits yielded ellagic acid, beta-sitosterol, and kaempferol-3-beta-D-galactoside *(78)*. Casuarina has limited value as a source of fodder, but is sometimes used for this purpose during periods of severe drought *(25)*.

GENETICS

Casuarina exhibits a high degree of phenotypic variation with regard to shape of crown, angle of branches, length of branchlets, size and shape of cones, production of cones *(82)*, and propensity to produce roots from the lower stem under flooded conditions *(50)*. Significant differences in seedling growth among Philippine provenances *(41)* and variations in growth rate *(46, 79, 94, 121)* and nitrogen-fixing potential of individual genotypes *(94)* have been reported. Hybridization is known to occur between *C. equisetifolia* and other *Casuarina* species, especially *C. glauca* Sieb. ex. Spreng. *(24, 106, 110)* and *C. junghuhniana* Miq. *(24)*.

The genus *Casuarina* consists of about 52 species and includes species ranging in size from bushes less than 1 m in height to forest trees 20 to 30 m in height *(25)*. Members of the genus that have been studied extensively are *C. cunninghamiana* Miq., *C. glauca, C. junghuhniana,* and *C. oligodon* L. Johnson. Other species with demonstrated or potential value for plantations include *C. campestris* Miq., *C. cristata* Miq., *C. decaisneana* F. Muell., *C. dielsiana* C. A. Gardn., *C. fraseriana* Miq., *C. huegeliana* Miq., *C. littoralis* Salisb., *C. leuhmanii* (R.T. Baker), *C. obesa* Miq., *C. stricta* Ait., and *C. torulosa* Ait. *(76)*. In Puerto Rico, limited trials have been conducted with *C. cunninghamiana, C. glauca,* and *C. cristata*.[1]

The generic name alludes to the drooping filamentous branchlets that resemble the plumage of the cassowary bird *(Casuarius* spp.); the specific epithet *equisetifolia,* meaning "horsetail," refers to the herbaceous genus *Equisetum,* which has similar foliage *(57, 76)*. The species was formerly known as *C. litorea* L.

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